ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO THE

DASARA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

7th OCTOBER 1916.

1.—Preliminary.

GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege, under His Highness the Maharaja's commands, to extend a cordial welcome to you, the representatives of the people, to the thirty-third session of the Assembly, and in accordance with precedent, to place before you an account of the administration of the State during the official year ended 30th June 1916.

As in the past few years, Part I of the Address will deal with the essential features of the administration during the year 1915-16, and Part II, which will be taken as read, with the further details necessary to obtain a connected idea of the year's work.

The War.

2. The great war has entered upon the third year of its destructive career and its effects are visible in many directions on the trade and finances of the country. The activities which depend on the import of foreign machinery and tools are somewhat hampered and a strict watch has to be maintained over all departments of State expenditure.

We continue to receive favourable reports concerning the Mysore Imperial Service Regiment which has been on active service for the last two years. The regiment has distinguished itself in more than one encounter with the enemy and three of its officers have earned recognition, at the hands of the Government of India, for gallantry and

distinguished conduct. The Imperial Service Transport Corps which has also been made available for active service will, we trust, acquit itself with equal credit. However small our contributions may seem when compared to the magnitude of the operations, they are the best practical expression we are able to give to the warmth of our devotion and our sense of Imperial obligation at this great crisis.

Seasonal Conditions.

3. The seasonal conditions of the past year have been favourable. The rains were ample and timely in all the districts of the State except Tumkur, Shimoga and Kadur, and even in these three districts, agricultural operations were not materially affected by the shortage of rainfall. Save in the case of the coffee crop in the Kadur District, the produce throughout the State came up to the normal. No complaints were received of dearth of fodder or of drinking water from any part of the State.

Prospects of the Current Monsoon.

4. The prospects during the current monsoon are, on the whole, good. The rainfall in the *maidan* districts has exceeded, in July and August, the average of the previous ten years, the excess in the Kolar District being as high as 8 inches. On the other hand, the rainfall in the *malnad* districts of Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan fell short of the average, the deficiency in the first two districts being 9 and 12 inches, respectively, in July. Most of the tanks are full, fodder is abundant, and although the ragi crop has suffered somewhat on account of excess of rain, the agricultural operations may be said to be progressing satisfactorily and the indications are all in favour of a good harvest and a prosperous year.

2.—Administration—General.

The Representative Assembly.

5. As announced at the last session, His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to accord to the members of this Assembly the privilege of discussing the State budget. I have no doubt that the members have studied the budget as well as the rules of discussion. For the convenience of those who are not acquainted with